The Draa River Basin

The basin is characterized by a dry climate and intermittent rivers – rivers that periodically cease to flow – and is subject to many hydrological changes due to climate change and different forms of water abstraction and land use.

Main Scientific Partners

University of Koblenz-Landau, Germany
University Cadi Ayyad, Marrakesh, Morocco
University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany
University Sultan Moulay Slimane, Morocco
University Ibn Zohr, Morocco

Practical partners

L’agence du bassin hydrique – Drâa Oued Noun
ORMVAO (Office Régional de Mise en Valeur Agricole d’Ouarzazate)
Direction Régionale des Eaux et Forêts Sud-Ouest
ANDZOA (Agence Nationale de Développement des Zones Oasiennes et de l’Agranier)
ONEP (Office National d’Eau Potable)
Association les Amis de l’Environnement Zagora

Project duration

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Contact

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What is SaliDRAA جوج؟
A German-Moroccan research project focusing on the consequences of climate change and human activity on the water bodies of the Drâa River Basin. The aim is to find solutions for problems like salinization and develop strategies for sustainable water use that benefit the people in the Drâa River Basin and the environment.

What is the problem?
Climate change, the overuse of water resources and falling groundwater levels contribute to increasing salinization of soils and water bodies in the Drâa River Basin. This negatively affects the survival of local plant and animal species, reduces agricultural production and threatens human well-being. Hence sustainable adaptation strategies are needed to preserve biological diversity and ensure water availability for human livelihoods.

Aims
- Together with all stakeholders, assess the benefits that different groups of users derive from the river ecosystem
- Record the aquatic and semi-aquatic biological diversity
- Understand how biodiversity contributes to goods and services humans get from ecosystems
- Understand existing water and land management practices and solutions
- Develop strategies and suggestions to adjust existing water use practices and management approaches to better balance conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Drâa River Basin
- Combine different scientific disciplines to develop a case study that can inform other arid regions

Further, SaliDRAA جوج aims to guide young scientists towards collaborative research work involving many different disciplines and stakeholders.

How?
By combining the perspectives and knowledge of natural and social scientists working in close collaboration with local actors.